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Identical letters dated 17 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Once again, radical Islamic operatives have used the occasion of a Jewish holiday to stage provocations and instigate violence on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. These groups have a long track record of attacking Jews on their holiest days, at their holiest place.

On Sunday, as Jews around the world prepared to celebrate Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, a group of militant Islamist agitators deliberately disrupted visits by tourists and Israelis to the Temple Mount complex, the holiest site in Judaism, and instigated a violent clash with Israeli police. The operatives prepared for this violent confrontation by stockpiling rocks, planks, wooden sheets and fireworks. They also prepared lethal weapons such as Molotov firebombs and explosive devices in advance of the calculated provocation. When Israeli police entered the area to maintain order and ensure free access, the operatives unleashed their attack. The violent attacks continued for three consecutive days, throughout the Jewish festival, as the masked operatives threw rocks, firebombs and firecrackers at the police, who responded with non-lethal riot dispersal measures.

I wish to emphasize that these three days of Palestinian violence on the Temple Mount were not provoked by any Israeli activity. I would also like to make clear that at no point did Israeli police forces enter the mosque. All damage sustained at the mosque was a direct result of the activities of the militants. As a matter of policy, the Israeli police do not enter the mosque itself. Furthermore, Israeli police officers are not posted on the Temple Mount and only enter the area in specific cases when riots have to be controlled.

The violence against Jews has not been limited to those who seek to visit the Temple Mount. Alexander Lebelovitch, age 64, was returning home from a Rosh Hashana dinner Sunday night when Palestinians attacked his car with a barrage of stones, causing him to lose control of his vehicle and crash into a roadside ditch. Mr. Lebelovitch, a father of three, died from his injuries Monday morning. While stone-throwing has been all but ignored by the United Nations and the Security Council, this attack proves, once again, that stones can kill. Accordingly, Israel takes measures necessary to deter and prevent these serious attacks.

As I stated above, this is not the first time that such groups have planned provocations for the Jewish holidays. Almost one year ago, on the eve of the Jewish festival of Sukkot, masked operatives carried out a nearly identical attack, attacking

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